

Learning to Hunt

Hosting a hunting-
based outdoor skills
event in your
community



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Station
20

The One That
Got Away

The One That Got Away

Telling “tall tales”

Participants
try to “outdo”
each other as
they spin some
wild and
woolly tales.



Station 20

The One That
Got Away

Activity

Learning to Hunt

Objectives

Participant shall:

relay information about
hunting through story.

have fun while discussing
hunting.

Equipment

Fire circle
Your imagination

Station Setup

Find a site where participants can
gather around in a circle, such as a
fire circle.



Procedure

Tell your participants that part of the fun in going hunting is to share your adventures with others when you get home. Ask them if they've ever heard the phrase, "Now that's a whopper of a story?" or "Oh, no! Not another fish tale!" What do those phrases mean? Why do you think they have come to mean that? What about the phrase "Now that seems pretty fishy to me?" What does "fishy" mean?

Ask participants if they've ever told or heard a hunting story. They are going to have a chance in a few moments to stretch the truth...just a little! This time, however, each person will try to "out-do" the previous storyteller just a little bit more. They will try to make their story just a teensy-weensy more unbelievable.

You, the leader, should begin with an ordinary hunting tale...one that is quite believable. You begin with just one or two sentences. For example, you might want to begin with the first time you went hunting. You might say something like: "It was a crisp October morning and my Dad and I went to my Grandad's woods to hunt fox squirrels." Now let your participants get a chance to add to that story with one more sentence

or two that makes it much more unbelievable. For instance, the next person might say: “ It was a crisp October morning, and my Dad and I went to my Grandad’s woods to hunt fox squirrels. As we neared the woods we knew we were in for a great hunt. We heard a very loud, unusual sound....” Then the next person adds on to the story from there.

Just watch the stories grow. Emphasize that the added sentences should be only just slightly more unbelievable than the previous one, otherwise the stories will jump too suddenly from something believable to something wholly unbelievable.

Here are some whopper sentences that you may hear in a typical round of deer hunting stories:

It was a cold Thanksgiving day, and I had not seen a buck that deer season. So I set out from my cabin into the great northwoods.

I was very angry when I came to my favorite spot. Someone had obviously clear cut the area earlier that year. But then I realized that all of the trees were buck rubs.

Later that morning, I finally got a look at the buck responsible for these rubs. He was acting very unusual.

I noticed that the buck’s hindquarters kept tipping into the air everytime he reached down to feed.

As he approached my stand, I felt a slight tremor, like a minor earthquake. I thought it was odd, since I had never heard of this area ever having earthquakes at any time in history.

It was cold that November morning, for sure, and there were large puffs of steam coming from his nostrils. Very large puffs, in fact. As he drew nearer, I saw why the puffs were so big and billowy. Little sparks of red flame came shooting from each nostril.

When the buck finally came within shooting distance of my tree stand, I realized he was so big that I didn’t have to shoot down at him...I took a level shot.

When I got the mounted head home, his rack of antlers was so large that I had to call in a carpenter to make a larger entryway into my house.

When I finally got the mount into the house, and set it on the floor, the joists cracked....

and so on and so on.



End of Teaching Station

Station 20

The One That
Got Away

Learning to Hunt

References

My Buck Was So Big..., Jim Mize, Field & Stream, September 2000.
(article)

